THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act has come into force w.e.f. 31-3-1986.

(b) First Information Report in two cases has been filed with the Police for violation of Handloom Reservation Orders.

(c) and (d) Shortcomings have been found in the Rules framed under the Act on the procedure to be followed for testing of samples seized in cases where violation of Handloom Reservation Orders have been detected. Government proposes to rectify the short-coming through amendment of the Rules and issue of guidelines to the Testing Laboratories where the seized samples will be sent for testing.

The objective of the Act could not be realised so far because Powerloom/Mill owners have challenged the provisions of the Act in different High Courts of the country. The High Courts have given Interim-Stay to the implementation of the Act. While Central Government is taking necessary action to get the Stay Orders vacated, simultaneously action has been taken to get all the pending cases in different High Courts transferred to the Supreme Court of India so that an early verdict is obtained at one point.

Italian delegation's interest in Indian goods

82. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Italian delegation which visited India during the second week of December, 1986 has shown interest in the products of small scale industries; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(b) what steps Government are taking in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No official business delegation from Italy visited India in the second week of December, 1986.

(b) Does not arise.

Islanders Employed in Union Territory Services of Lakshadweep

83. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not more than 45 per cent of the islanders are employed in the Union Territory services of Lakshadweep; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Employment opportunities for Youth of Lakshadweep

84. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that frustration is developing among the youths of Lakshadweep as there is no scope of employment opportunities, and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Improvement of transport and communication system of Lakshadweep

85. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the transport and communication systems of Lakshadweep Island need improvement; and